



The Road to Kindergarten

*The Office of Early Childhood Programs
Howard County Public School System*

This event is brought to you by the
Howard County
Transition to Kindergarten Workgroup

- Community Action Council / Head Start
- Educational consultants
- Howard County Public Library System
- HC Office of Children & Families
- HCPSS Office of Early Childhood Programs
- HCPSS Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers
- HCPSS Early Intervention Services
- Howard County Family Child Care Association
- The Judy Center at Cradlerock
- Representatives from community-based, private child care/preschool programs

Topics



- ▣ School Readiness
- ▣ HCPSS Kindergarten Program
- ▣ Registration/Transition Information

Our workgroup believes...



**All families want
what is best for their
children.**

As a child's first teacher, parents and families play a significant role in education, beginning at birth and beyond.

Going to
kindergarten is a
developmental
milestone.

**The transition to
kindergarten is not a
one-time event.**

**Not all children have
the same readiness
for kindergarten.**

**Schools must be
ready for children
and families.**

Kindergarten is an
important step
towards success in
college, career, and
life upon graduation
from high school.

Welcome to the Class of 2036

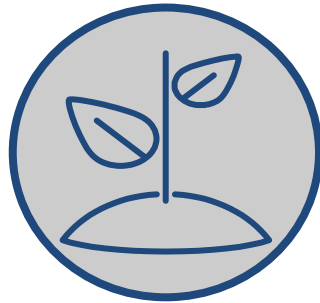
HCPSS is here to support your family during your child's educational journey.

The following is county-level information that is relevant for all 42 elementary schools.

Once you register, you'll learn specific information about your child's school and eventually, their teacher.



What does “Ready for School” Mean?



“Ready for School” means...

Real-life experience

Early vocabulary and literacy exposure

Areas of competence and strengths

Developmentally appropriate activities

Young, curious minds

“Ready for School” means...

Real-life experience

- ▣ Take advantage of places in the area to visit!
 - *The Howard County Library, hiking trails, zoos, farmer’s markets, aquarium, and more.*
- ▣ These experiences will give your child something to draw upon and relate to during lessons in kindergarten and make the learning more meaningful.
- ▣ Children have plenty of opportunity to share “background knowledge” - that is, what they already know or have experienced related to a topic.
- ▣ Sparks curiosity for new learning

“Ready for School” means...

Early vocabulary and literacy exposure

- ▣ Back and forth conversation, combined with quality words, supports brain development and helps sets the stage for readiness.
- ▣ Use authentic vocabulary related to those real-life experiences.
 - *When you visit the grocery store, explain you are buying “golden delicious apples.” Discuss what golden and delicious mean. Can you think of or find other things that are golden or delicious? What other words mean the same thing?*
- ▣ Your lap is the best app! Read real books and give your child a chance to turn the pages, predict what will happen, discuss the story, etc. Point out simple words in the text. Before reading, make predictions about the story. After reading, discuss what happened. Select books and subject-matter of high interest to your child.

“Ready for School” means...

Areas of competence and strengths

- ▣ There is a developmental continuum across different domains, including Language & Literacy, Mathematics, Social Foundations, Fine and Gross Motor Skills, etc.
- ▣ Remember there will be areas of strength and areas of need or emerging skills, and those are unique to every child. Teachers use this approach to support learning and move each child forward along their own unique developmental path.
- ▣ Help your child develop additional readiness skills by supporting knowledge, skills, and behaviors that are still emerging and continuing to nurture areas of strength.

“Ready for School” means...

Developmentally appropriate activities

- ▣ Workbooks and flashcards are not needed to support readiness. Instead, capitalize on your child’s interest and their everyday world.
 - Use magnetic letters to spell their name. Practice the names and sounds of the letters in their name. Spell the names of family members and friends. Find other things in the house that start with the same letter as their name.
 - Play with the sounds in words. Change the first letter to a new letter. What is the new word?
 - Count the number of steps it takes to get from the car to the front door, the front door to their room. How many rungs on the ladder at the park?
 - And more!

“Ready for School” means...

Young, curious minds

- ▣ It's ok to ask questions!
- ▣ Demonstrate asking questions about things you are curious about. Say things like, “I wonder...”. Read books about the things you wonder, visit related places, practice using new words you learn, etc.

“Ready for School” means...

Children don't have to come to school knowing everything. It means they have most of the foundational skills, knowledge, and behaviors that help them access new learning.

Support Readiness

Find resources and additional links on our website!

- [Prekindergarten Family & Community Resources](#)
- [Kindergarten Family & Community Resources](#)
- [Early Childhood Beginnings](#)



Family and Community Resources

These resources have been created to provide parents with support in English / Language Arts instruction.

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5

Curriculum for Grades K–12

Curriculum for Grades K-12

Determining Readiness

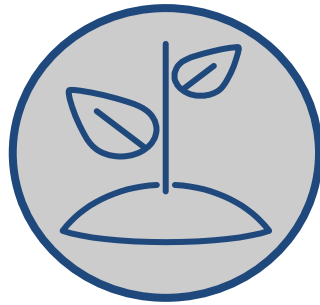
Developmentally-Appropriate Assessment Measures

- ▣ Supports targeted, differentiated instruction
- ▣ Examples include observation, brief performance tasks, etc.
- ▣ [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment](#)
- ▣ [Universal Screening](#)



HCPSS

Kindergarten Program



Our Vision

The Office of Early Childhood Programs strives to ensure that instruction at the kindergarten level:

- ▣ prepares students for success as lifelong learners by developing the academic, social and emotional knowledge, strategies, and skills needed to participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world;
- ▣ utilizes a child-centered approach to ensure that each child develops a love of learning;
- ▣ nurtures a positive school experience where all students contribute as members of the classroom community; and,
- ▣ supports an individualized approach so each student successfully acquires, demonstrates, and applies the skills and knowledge of the curriculum.





Every day in kindergarten...

- ▣ Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- ▣ Expressive Language Opportunities
- ▣ Social / Emotional / Behavioral Skill Development
- ▣ Interdisciplinary Instruction



Developmentally Appropriate Practices

- ▣ Hands-on learning
- ▣ Mix of learning preferences: auditory, kinesthetic, visual, etc.
- ▣ Manipulatives (magnetic letters, dice, counters, etc.)
- ▣ Learning occurs in age-appropriate chunks of time.



Expressive Language Opportunities

- ▣ Ability to communicate using language
 - Learning to ask for help
 - Asking questions
 - Back and forth conversation
 - Staying on topic in a conversation
 - Expressing an opinion
 - Etc.



Social Emotional Skill Development

- ▣ Skills for life
 - Turn-taking
 - Working memory
 - Ability to control attention
 - Putting off favorite activities to prioritize important tasks
 - Friendship skills
 - Problem solving
 - And more!



Interdisciplinary Instruction

- ▣ Apply subjects and learning across the day
 - Listen to a read aloud about counting in math
 - Write an alphabet book about healthy habits in health
 - Use the Engineering Design Process to create structures in block center during play time
 - Etc.



What Might a Day in Kindergarten Look Like?

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Arrival / Morning Work

Opening / Morning Meeting or Circle

Language Arts

Science / Social Studies / Health

Recess & Lunch

Quiet Time / Take Ten

Mathematics

Related Arts

Student-Selected Activities

A photograph of two young children in a classroom. In the foreground, a child with dark hair is seen from the back, sitting on a green chair. In the background, another child with blonde hair tied in pigtails is also sitting on a green chair, with one arm raised towards a window. The text "Arrival / Morning Work" is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, black serif font.

Arrival / Morning Work



Arrival / Morning Work

- ▣ Children arrive by car, bus, or as a walker
- ▣ Enter with other students
- ▣ Learn to participate in arrival routines (e.g., unpack, gather materials) with independence



Opening / Morning Meeting



Opening / Morning Meeting

- ▣ Build classroom community
- ▣ Talk about the day to come
- ▣ Share stories, songs, updates, etc.

A photograph of a female teacher with long blonde hair, wearing a white shirt, leaning over a wooden table in a classroom. She is smiling and gesturing with her right hand, pointing upwards. Three young students are seated at the table, facing away from the camera. The student on the left is wearing an orange shirt and has their right hand raised. The student in the middle is wearing a red shirt. The student on the right is wearing a light green shirt and is holding a white marker. On the table are several blue plastic storage bins and some papers. The background shows a blue wall with educational posters, including one of a whale and another of a triangle. A colorful bulletin board is visible on the left side of the frame.

Language Arts



Language Arts

- ▣ Daily
- ▣ Mix of whole group (lessons with the entire class together), small group, partner, and independent opportunities
- ▣ Children work in small groups on lessons targeted to meet their individual learning needs.
- ▣ Reading, writing, foundational skills, and more!



Science Social Studies Health

Science Social Studies Health

- ▣ 30-45 minutes, depending on the unit
- ▣ Four units per subject
- ▣ Specific unit of study for each subject area.
- ▣ Learn more at the [Kindergarten Family & Community Resources](#) site.



A photograph of two young children at a playground. They are both wearing purple long-sleeved shirts and are hanging from a red horizontal bar. The child on the right is a girl with dark hair, wearing a yellow skirt and striped leggings, and she is smiling at the camera. The child on the left is seen from the back, wearing a pink backpack. In the background, there is a red slide and other playground equipment. The entire image is framed by a thin white border.

Lunch & Recess



Lunch & Recess

- ▣ 30 minutes each
- ▣ Lunch available at school or bring from home
- ▣ Staff members support children with making choices, opening containers, purchasing, etc.
- ▣ Go outside for recess as much as possible, so send children to school in weather-appropriate clothing
- ▣ Practice opening containers with your child.



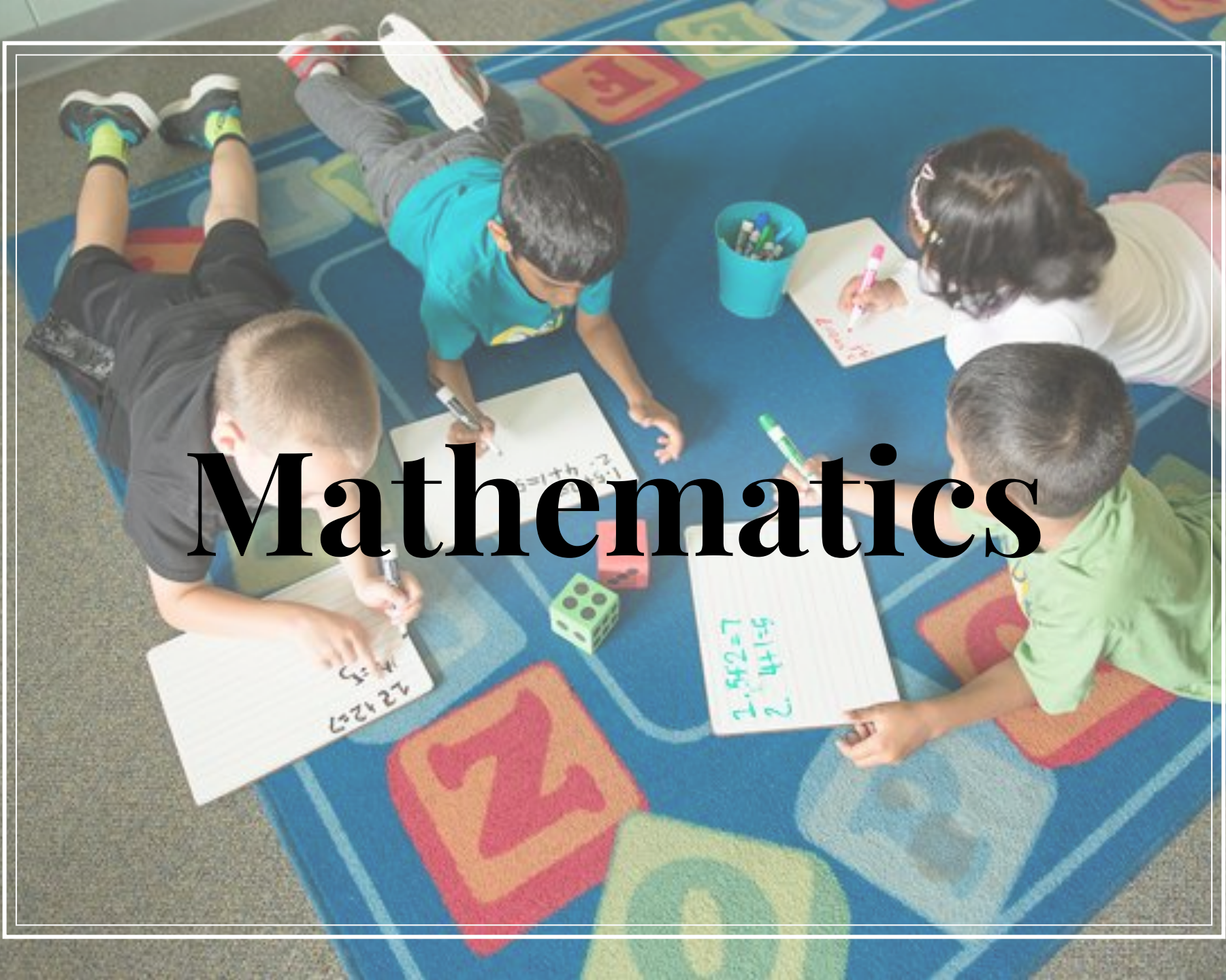
Quiet Time / Take Ten



Quiet Time / Take Ten

- ▣ Quiet Time is not nap, but a chance to calm after high energy moments.
 - *It is important for children to have down time and an opportunity to rest their brains.*
- ▣ Take Ten is movement, usually set to music. Includes dancing, songs, etc.

Mathematics





Mathematics

- ▣ Daily
- ▣ Whole group (lessons with the entire class together), small group, partners, and independent opportunities
- ▣ Children work in small groups on lessons targeted to meet their individual learning needs.
- ▣ Lots of games and hands-on materials like dice, dominoes, animal-shaped counters, etc.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, is focused on painting a white paper boat. He is using a blue paintbrush to apply blue paint to the side of the boat. The background is a warm, yellowish-brown wall. The text "Related Arts" is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font on the left side of the image.

Related Arts

- ▣ Art
- ▣ Music
- ▣ Physical Education
- ▣ Library Media
- ▣ Technology



Related Arts

- ▣ Daily
- ▣ Range from 30-60 minutes, depending on the subject
- ▣ Go to other classrooms (Art Room, Gym, etc.),
- ▣ Have different teachers for each subject

A photograph of two young children in a classroom, dressed as firefighters. They are wearing red helmets and yellow jackets with red reflective stripes. The child on the left is holding a large orange octagonal sign that says "SLOW" in black capital letters. They are standing on a colorful rug with numbers and bee patterns. In the background, other children are sitting on the floor, and there are tables and chairs in the room. The text "Student-Selected Activities" is overlaid in a large, black, serif font.

Student-Selected Activities



Student-Selected Activities

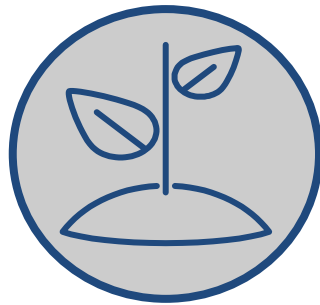
- ▣ Daily
- ▣ 30-40 minutes
- ▣ Time to play, make choices, bring learning to life
- ▣ May include blocks, painting, dramatic play, water table, science table, etc., and change throughout the year



Kindergarten Instruction = Differentiated Instruction

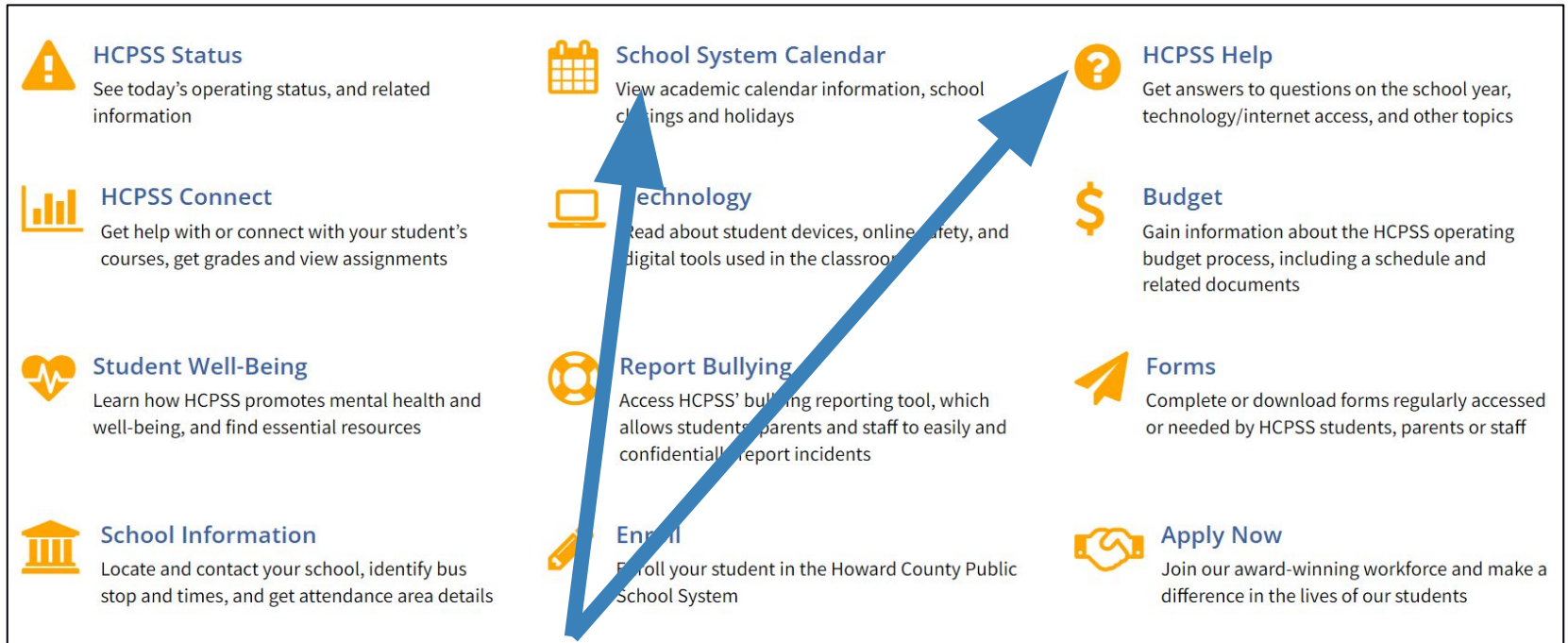
Designed to meet each child's academic needs in each subject, moving them forward through individualized instruction and activities.

Registration/Transition Information



www.hcpss.org

Homepage



- Check out the **School System Calendar** for early dismissals, closures, etc. so you can plan ahead!
- Visit **HCPSS Help** for Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.hcpss.org/hcpss-news/>

- ▣ Parents/guardians of enrolled HCPSS students DO NOT need to sign up for, or manage an HCPSS News account.
- ▣ If your oldest/only child is starting school in the fall, you will be automatically signed up for HCPSS News messages in early August from HCPSS and the school your child will be attending.
- ▣ Subscription information comes directly from the Family File information parents/guardians complete in the HCPSS Connect system.
- ▣ Community members or any non-HCPSS parent must sign up to receive email and/or text messages from the district and/or specific schools.

FOLLOW US – WE'RE SOCIAL!





Twitter
@hcpss

Follow us on Twitter




Instagram
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Follow us on Instagram





Flickr
/hcpss

Follow us on Flickr



LinkedIn
howard-county-public-schools

Follow us on LinkedIn



Mobile apps
hcpss.org/mobile-apps/

Download our free mobile apps

- Follow HCPSS on various social media platforms.

The screenshot shows a website interface with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. A blue arrow points from the bottom left towards the 'School Information' link in the sidebar. A black arrow points from the 'School Locator' text box towards the map in the main content area.

School Information
Locate and contact your school, identify bus stop and times, and get attendance information.

School Locator
Use our online map application to locate your address within the county, find your planning polygon number, and view adopted attendance areas.

SY 22-23 Assignments
Longfellow ES (bus)
Harpers Choice MS (bus)
Wilde Lake HS (bus)

SY 23-24 Assignments
Longfellow ES (bus)
Harpers Choice MS (bus)
Wilde Lake HS (bus)

Details about bus routes can be found using the [bus stop locator](#).

Find address or place

Map

Map showing various school districts and their boundaries, including labels like LISBON ES, Bushy Park ES, West Friendship ES, Manor Woods ES, St. Johns Lane ES, Triadelphia Ridge ES, Dayton Oaks ES, Northfield ES, Worthington ES, Ilchester ES, Belknap Spring ES, Waterloo ES, Pointers Run ES, and Cradlerock ES.

- Find your assigned school using [School Information](#) from the homepage. Look for **School Locator**.
- Children attend the school to which they are assigned.
- Bus service available if you live more than one-mile from school.

SCHOOLS

Our online school directory

SCHOOL LISTINGS AND CONTACTS

[School Directory](#)

Browse and list all HCPSS schools. Quickly access each school's phone number, building address, website, school opening and closing times, and school profiles.

[School Locator](#)

Use our online map application to locate your address within the county, find your planning polygon number, and view adopted attendance areas.

[School Transportation](#)

Find a link to our bus stop locator, and learn more about transportation safety and emergency closing information.

[Community Superintendents](#)

Browse the list of Community Superintendents and their assigned schools.

[Board Member Cluster Assignments](#)

Individual Board members are assigned to specific schools visit, attend special events, and become additional points of contact for each school community.

[School Planning](#)

Get more information about projected student enrollment, school boundary studies, attendance area adjustments, and our annual feasibility study.

- Once you use **School Locator** to find your school, use the **School Directory** to learn more.
- Access the **School Directory** from the main page using **School Information** OR from the **Schools** option in the navigation bar.

- View school profiles, find contact information, etc.
- School times are unique to each school - this is important to know so you can arrange before and after-care, if needed.

eria.



Atholton Elementary School

410-313-6853

 [Web Site](#)

6700 Seneca Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Principal – Robin Malcot

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

[View School Details](#)



Bellows Spring Elementary School

410-313-5057

 [Web Site](#)

8125 Old Stockbridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Principal – Julie Schrufer

9:25 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.

[View School Details](#)



Bollman Bridge Elementary School

410-880-5920

 [Web Site](#)

8200 Savage-Guilford Road, Savage, MD 20763

Principal – Connie Fowlkes

8:35 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.

[View School Details](#)

YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES



Food Services

We serve more than 5.5 million high-quality meals per year. View menus, daily prices, and how to pay for meals.



Transportation

Provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation to and from school for enrolled students living beyond a one-mile walking distance from elementary and middle schools and a one and one-half mile walking distance from high schools.



Before and After Care

Get the contact information for the agencies that support before and after school care for your child's school.

[Bus Stop FAQs](#) [Safety](#) [Delays](#) [Contact](#)

Our Bus Services

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation to and from school for enrolled students living beyond a one-mile walking distance from elementary and middle schools and a one and one-half mile walking distance from high schools.



- ▣ Find out [Transportation information](#) via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- ▣ On the first day, it is recommended to send your child to school the way they will travel every day. Plenty of adults will help guide them and they get to experience the “newness” - and excitement, nerves, anticipation - with their classmates while learning new routines.

YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES**Food Services**

We serve more than 4 million high-quality meals per year. View menus, daily prices, and how to pay for meals.

**Transportation**

Provides safe, reliable, and efficient transportation to and from school for students living beyond a one-mile distance from elementary and middle schools, and a one and one-half mile distance from high schools.

**Food Services**[Menus](#) [Meal Prices](#) [Free and Reduced Meals](#) [Nutritional Wellness](#) [Commitment to Quality](#)

We serve more than 5.5 million high-quality meals per year

Message from Food and Nutrition Services Director Brian Ralph

The HCPSS Food and Nutrition Services staff is very excited about the 2023-2024 school year as we continue the crucial task of meeting the nutritional needs of our students. We take our role in the development of the whole child very seriously. Students need healthy, nutritious meals on a daily basis in order to learn effectively.

For the past two years, federal waivers were in place to offer all students universal meals at no charge. These waivers expired on June 30 and we will return to pre-pandemic ways of providing meals to students based on eligibility (free, reduced price, and paid). We encourage households to complete Free and Reduced lunch applications, based on your household income of \$12,000.

HCPSS offers a variety of meal choices with the goal of providing excellent service and high quality meals that meet or exceed federal and state requirements. We are committed to providing food that students are excited about eating. In order for us to be successful, we are asking for full participation and open communication with the students and parents. We are proud to serve your child and encourage you to support our ongoing efforts to improve student health and well-being by participating in our food service program.

What's on the menu?

- Find [Food Services information](#) via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- Information includes nutrition, allergens, pricing, online payment, etc.

YOUR CHILD'S DAILY ACTIVITIES

Food Services



Transportation



Before and After Care

Get the contact information for the agencies that support before and after school care for your child's

Agencies That Serve Howard County Public Schools

Below is the contact information for the 2 agencies that serve Howard County public schools. The elementary and middle schools that are aligned with these programs, are listed after the agency.

Columbia Association

Before and After School Care – School Age Services

- Phone: 410-715-3164
- Email: SAS@ColumbiaAssociation.org or visit their website

Howard County Recreation and Parks

Before and After School (for elementary children)

- Find [Before and After Care information](#) via **Supports** in the navigation bar.
- If you need before and/or after care, **sign up early** (check with agencies for specific dates) - *programs fill up quickly!*

K-12 INSTRUCTION

Career and Technical Education

Allows students to explore a variety of technology concepts from computer science to engineering, and includes advanced level coursework to prepare students for in-demand careers.

English/Language Arts

We maintain a student-centered, integrated instructional approach to ensure that learners become thinking, problem-solving users of language.

Fine Arts

The arts are an essential part of every child's learning and cognitive development, sharpening analytical skills, encouraging abstract associations, innovative thinking, and creative problem solving.

Gifted & Talented

The G/T Program sees advanced-level learners in programs and activities for advanced learners.

Family and Community Resources

These resources have been created to provide parents with support in English / Language Arts instruction.

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Parent Page for Secondary English

Learn more about the Secondary English Curriculum

Curriculum for Grades K-12

Mathematics

Calls on students to practice applying mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges.

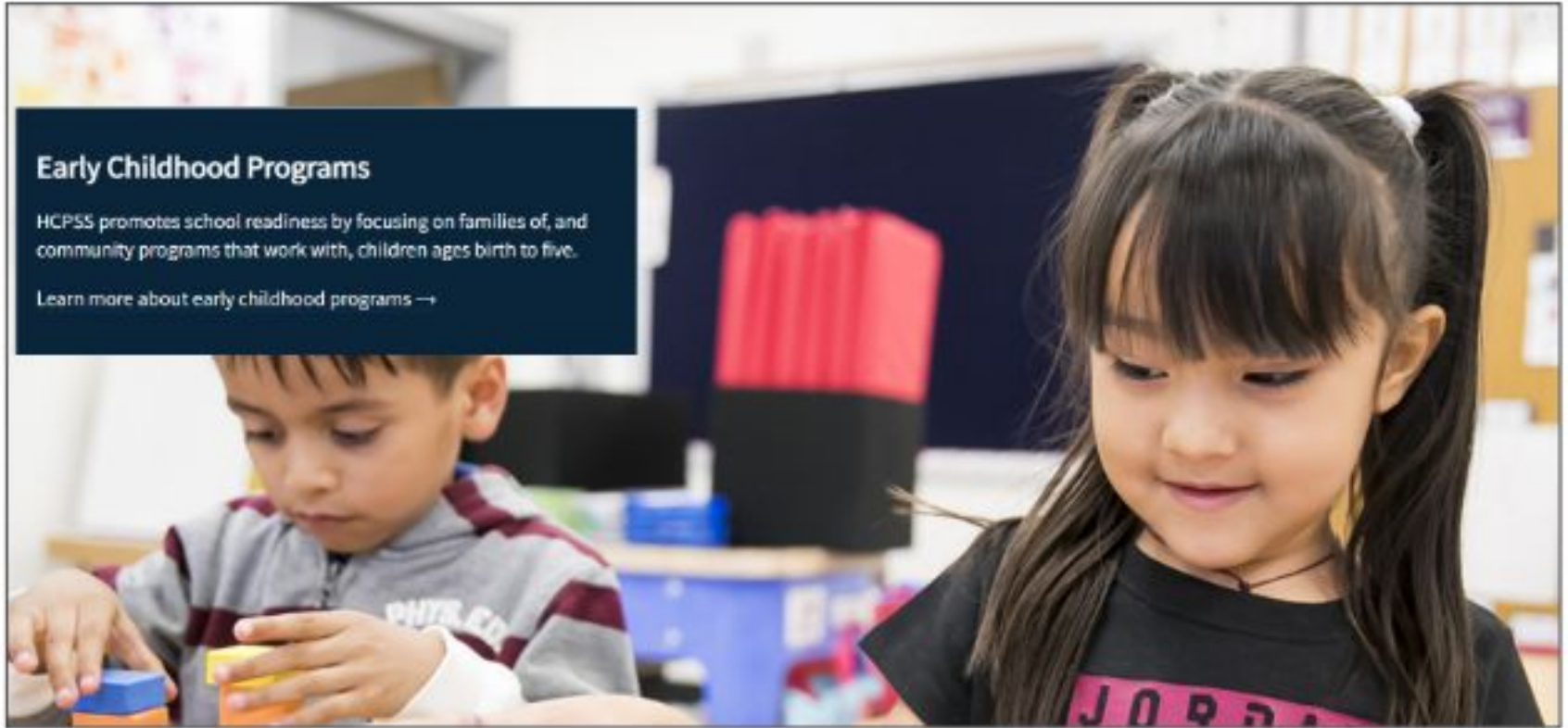
- Find information about academics, look for resources, etc.
- [What Your Child Will Learn Guides/Family and Community Resources](#)



Early Childhood Programs

HCPSS promotes school readiness by focusing on families of, and community programs that work with, children ages birth to five.

[Learn more about early childhood programs →](#)



- Visit **Early Childhood Programs** for Birth to Five information, including kindergarten readiness and more!

Early Childhood Programs

HCPSS provides high quality early childhood education that is rigorous yet developmentally appropriate. HCPSS also supports and promotes school readiness by focusing on families of, and community programs that work with, children ages birth to five.

Early Learning Resources (Birth-5)

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. There are many things a parent or caregiver can do, starting at birth, to help their child. There are numerous resources available to support families as they create everyday learning opportunities for children, which will ultimately ensure that the children are prepared to succeed in school and later life.

View resources, quick facts and figures, and educational opportunities for:

Students Birth to Age 3

Students Ages 3-5

View guidelines for prekindergarten (RECC and pre-K programs) Late Opening/Early Dismissals

Have a child from ages birth-5? Learn more about our [Launch into Learning](#) initiative.

Prekindergarten

HCPSS Pre-kindergarten programming includes a range of supports based on either economic or developmental needs.

- Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) - Our special education preschool programs serve children **three and four years of age** who have a disability or developmental delay. [Learn more about HCPSS Early Intervention Programs and Services](#) →
- Pre-K - Child must be **four years old on or before September 1st**. The Maryland State Department of Education requires that the pre-K

Kindergarten

Children **must be 5 years old by September 1** in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program or have an approved waiver.

[Find out more about preparing and registering for kindergarten](#) →

- [Find out more](#) about readiness, what you can do the year before kindergarten, registration, and more.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

[← Back to Enrollment and Registration](#)

Overview

HCPSS kindergarten is a full-day program. Registration for the 2023-2024 school year begins March 6, 2023. Children must be 5 years old by September 1, 2023, in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every eligible child must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an approved waiver form, which will be available March 1, 2023.

[← Start the enrollment process](#)

Helping Your Child Get Ready for Kindergarten

Kindergarten teachers are prepared for children who enter school with varying abilities, strengths and needs. Each child is taught at their appropriate level through differentiated instruction. Learn more what your child will learn in kindergarten.

Review the 2022 Road to Kindergarten slideshow for information about kindergarten readiness, the kindergarten program, and registering your child for school. Prior to kindergarten there are many things parents can do to support their child's transition to school. From making sure appropriate documentation is gathered, to playing with, reading with and listening to their child, the year before kindergarten is a great



- ▣ Access [Enrollment information](#) here or from the homepage.
- ▣ For students who are the right age but parents feel aren't ready and want to wait, there is an option for a waiver.



HCPSS Status

See today's operating status, and related information



School System Calendar

View academic calendar information, school closings and holidays



HCPSS Help

Get answers to questions on the school year, technology/internet access, and other topics



HCPSS Connect

Get help with or connect with your student's courses, get grades and view assignments



Technology

Read about student devices, online safety, and digital tools used in the classroom



Budget

Gain information about the HCPSS operating budget process, including a schedule and related documents



Student Well-Being

Learn how HCPSS promotes mental health and well-being, and find essential resources



Report Bullying

Access HCPSS' bullying reporting tool, which allows students, parents and staff to easily and confidentially report incidents



Forms

Complete or download forms regularly accessed or needed by HCPSS students, parents or staff



School Information

Locate and contact your school, identify bus stop and times, and get attendance area details



Enroll

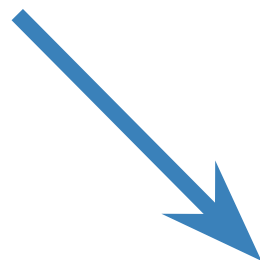
Enroll your student in the Howard County Public School System



Apply Now

Join our award-winning workforce and make a difference in the lives of our students

- Assess [eligibility and register your child](#) for school.
- The early admission application process is designed for students born within a designated window.
- Those seeking school enrollment one year early can find application information here.



Step 1 – Assess Eligibility and Needs

New Students

Students who have never attended a HCPSS school must be registered by their custodial parent (biological, adoptive, legal guardian).

New Kindergarten Students

Children must be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Every child who is 5 years old by September 1 must be enrolled in a kindergarten program this fall or have an [approved waiver](#).

[More information about registering a Kindergarten student →](#)

New Prekindergarten Students

HCPSS offers a half-day prekindergarten program. Students must be four years old by September 1 to be considered for enrollment. Unlike enrollment for K-12, parents must apply for admission to prekindergarten.

[Learn more about prekindergarten program →](#)

Seeking Early Admission?

The early admission process is designed for students who are born between September 2 – October 13 and are seeking enrollment to school one year early.

[Learn more about Early Admission to see if your child qualifies →](#)

Step 2 – Find Your School

Parents must live in the attendance area of the school where they plan to enroll their student. Use our School Locator tool to find and verify your school and attendance area.



Verify your child's school attendance area

Step 3 – Gather Documentation

Having all your documentation prepared in advance of registration will keep the process moving quickly. If you have a change of address, please notify your school and complete the [Change of Address form](#).

Student Identification Documentation

- Student's evidence of birth (birth certificate, passport/visa, physician's certificate, baptismal or church certification, hospital certificate, parent/s affidavit or birth registration.)
- Proof of parental relationship, custody, or guardianship. If applicable, bring legal proof of custody (court order).
- Any additional paperwork that may be necessary due to special living arrangements or circumstances.

Academic Documentation

- Student's most recent grade report, transcript, report card from last school attended at time of withdrawal.
- Documentation of Special Education (IEP), 504, Psychological Report, or related services.

Parent Identification Documentation

- Parent picture ID: driver's license, passport, MVA identification or other legal form of photographic identification.
- Signed original, current complete lease or complete deed with your address, valid dates, signatures.
- Current utility bill with name and address (non-cellular telephone, gas and electric, cable bill issued in the last 45 days.)

Health Documentation

- Student's current proof of immunizations, signed by physician. [Learn more about the immunizations required for enrollment →](#)

Students who have never attended a Howard County public school are required to submit additional health documents, including dental, physicals and more. [Learn more and access these forms.](#)

- Required documentation for registration is listed here.
- Specific, updated information related to health documentation (immunizations, medication, allergies, etc.) can be found at the link.

BEGIN ONLINE REGISTRATION

Online Registration is now open to enroll new HCPSS K-12 students for the 2020-2021 school year.

[Guide to Online Registration for New Students](#)

Grades 1-12

If you would like to register your child for the 2020-2021 school year, please complete the online registration by clicking on "Begin Online Registration." While completing the online registration form, you can also upload the required documents. Your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting (e.g., online Google Meet) to complete the registration process. During this virtual meeting, you will be asked to verify parental relationship and submit any additional required documentation.

Step 5 – Finalize Registration and Meet Your New School

After beginning the registration process online, your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting to complete the registration process.

This final step confirms area residency, guardianship of the child and

Kindergarten

If you would like to register for kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year, please complete the online registration by clicking on "Begin Online Registration". While completing the online registration form, you can also upload the required documents. Your child's school will contact you to schedule a virtual meeting to complete the registration process. During this virtual meeting, you will be asked to verify parental relationship and submit any additional required documentation.

[Specifics on 2020-2021 Kindergarten Registration](#)

Note: Parents/guardians without access to a computer should contact their child's school for assistance in completing the registration form.

Prekindergarten

[Specifics on 2020-2021 Pre-K Application](#)



[Find your school's contact information](#)

- After gathering the required documents, begin the online registration process.
 - *Parents/guardians without access to a computer should call their child's designated school for more information.*
- Finalize registration with your assigned school. This final step confirms area residency, guardianship of the child and ensures that the registration process is completed correctly.

Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 6–10, 2023

You will need:

- Picture I.D. (driver's license, passport, MVA identification or other legal form of photographic identification.)
- Signed original, current complete lease or complete deed with your address, valid dates, signatures.
- Current utility bill with name and address
- Child's evidence of birth (birth certificate, passport/visa, physician's certificate, baptismal or church certification, hospital certificate, parent/s affidavit or birth registration)
- Student's current proof of immunizations signed by physician.
- Proof of parental relationship, custody, or guardianship.

Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 6–10, 2023

- ▣ Language support is available at the Multilingual Family Registration Center.
- ▣ Children already enrolled in a HCPSS school as a prekindergarten student DO NOT need to re-enroll for kindergarten. Parents will receive information from child's current school and records will be transferred.
- ▣ If you are buying, building, or leasing a home in another attendance area than where you live, or haven't yet settled on your home, contact Student Reassignment via student_reassignment@hcpss.org.
- ▣ For any questions regarding residency, multiple family living arrangements, students experiencing homelessness, or custody/guardianship issues, please contact the Office of Pupil Personnel at 410-313-6747.

Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 6–10, 2023

- ▣ If you cannot register March 6–10, that's ok, but you are encouraged to register your child as soon as possible to receive information about upcoming kindergarten transition events, etc.



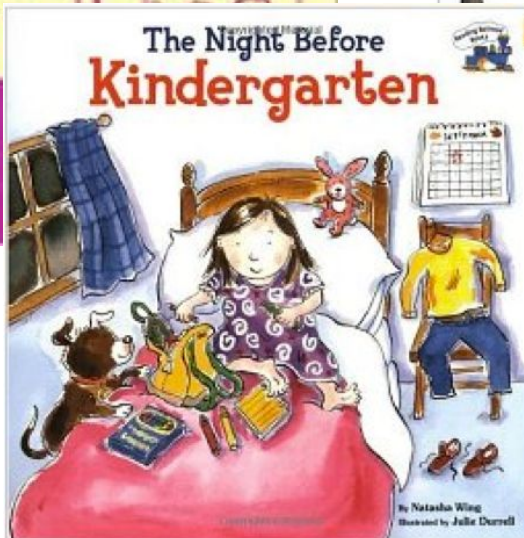
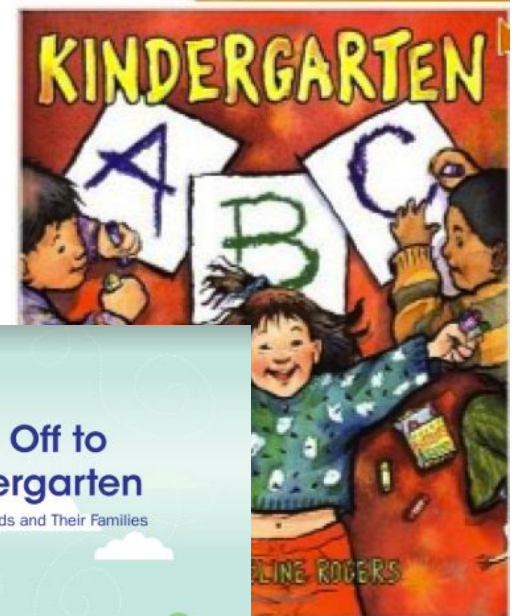
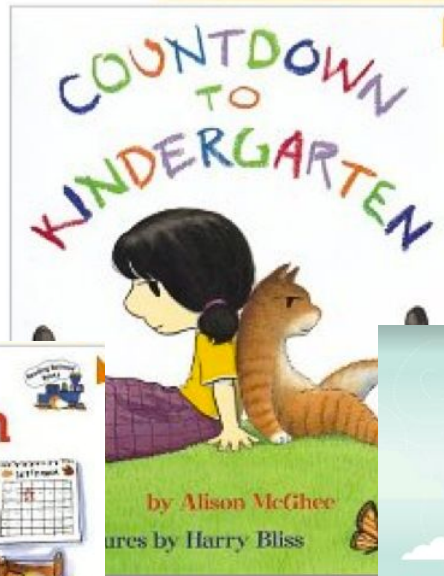
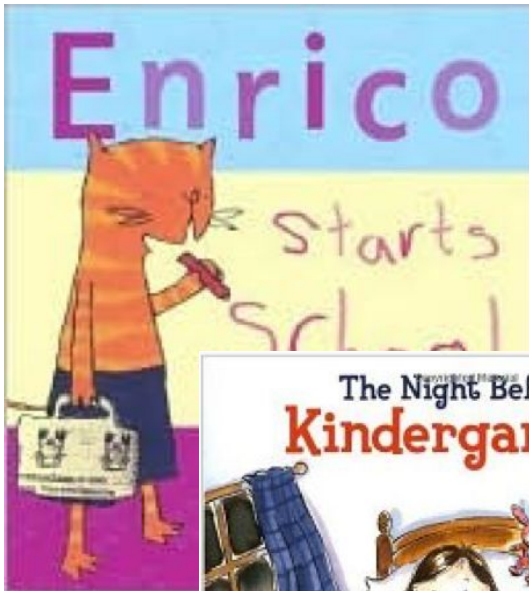
Events At YOUR School May Include

Sample of School Events for Parents and/or Children*

- ▣ Visitation / Tours
- ▣ Parent Information Session
- ▣ Spring Picnic
- ▣ Summer Playdates
- ▣ Orientation
- ▣ Back-to-School Night

**Not all events listed occur at every school. Information about events specific to your child's school will be shared when you register.*

Read Stories About School With Your Child!



Advice for Kindergarten Parents

- ▣ Become involved in your school - find ways to volunteer, join the PTA, go to school events, etc.!
- ▣ Sign up for email or text alerts!
- ▣ Get to know other parents!
- ▣ Never be afraid to ask questions!
- ▣ Know that it's *normal* to feel a wide range of emotions!
- ▣ Share your excitement and curiosity with your child...but not your anxiety!

Have a great next stop in
KINDERGARTEN!



Any Questions?

Please call the
Office of Early Childhood Programs
410-313-5693